

Message Text

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61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 /073 W
----- 062769

R 291812Z SEP 76
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9569
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS NATO 5301

E.O. 1652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SP
SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE ON SPAIN/NATO

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STORY BY DAVID HAWORTH, DATE-LINED BRUSSELS, WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE 4 OF SEPTEMBER 29 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE UNDER HEADLINE "SPAIN SEEKS ASSOCIATION WITH NATO"

BEGIN QUOTE: SPAIN IS APPLYING DISCREET DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON NATO TO PERSUADE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS THAT THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE GIVEN AN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALLIANCE, ACCORDING TO NATO SOURCES HERE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND WEST GERMANY FAVOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH SPAIN IN PRINCIPLE.

NORWAY, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND BRITAIN, HOWEVER, ARE ALL OPPOSED TO IT ON THE GROUND THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS THOUGHT TO BE STILL INSUFFICIENTLY DEMOCRATIC.

DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IN RECENT WEEKS AMONG NATO OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN A LOW KEY, BUT HAVE EXPOSED AN HONEST AND FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE OF VIEW ABOUT HOW THE ALLIANCE

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SHOULD RESPOND TO AN ANTICIPATED FORMAL REQUEST

FROM MADRID FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

A NATO SPOKESMAN TODAY DENIED THAT THE
ALLIANCE WAS "SPLIT OPEN" OVER THE ISSUE. HE SAID
SUCH A DESCRIPTION WAS AN EXAGERATION.
DIVIDED VIEWS

BUT IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH NATO SECRETARY-
GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE DIVIDED
VIEWS ABOUT THE ALLIANCE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH
SPAIN. DESPITE THIS, HE ADDED, "QUITE A FEW MEMBERS
OF THE ALLIANCE WOULD NOT BE READY TO CREATE SPECIAL
LINKS BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO".

MR. LUNS IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THOSE WHO
STRONGLY FAVOR SUCH A MOVE. THE RECENT POLITICAL UN-
CERTAINTIES IN PORTUGAL AND ITALY HAVE MADE IT IM-
PERATIVE, IN HIS OPINION, FOR THE ALLIANCE'S INFLU-
ENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA TO BE STRENGTHENED.

THIS OUTLOOK IS CERTAINLY SHARED BY U.S.
OFFICIALS AT THE ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS, WHO ARE
ANXIOUS ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF THE SPANISH LEFT'S
STRENGTHENING ITS HAND IN PREPARATION FOR PROMISED
GENERAL ELECTIONS IN SPAIN, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE,
1977.END QUOTE
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO05301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976095/aaaaadty.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ARTICLE ON SPAIN/NATO
TAGS: SP, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006